What is a Noxious weed?

Plants that are highly destructive, invasive, competitive, and difficult to control. These species reduce crop yields, destroy native plant and animal habitat, damage recreational opportunities, clog waterways, lower land values and may poison humans and livestock. Noxious weeds are biological pollutants, if left uncontrolled they destroy our ecosystems.

Why should we care about plants?

Plants are the building blocks for all life. Plants are used for food, clothing, shelter, and air. Many large and small wild animals depend on plants as a core food source.

Invasive plants **disrupt the natural systems and out compete many beneficial plants. Once invasive species take hold of land they normally persist for many years, costing landowners time and money for control.**

Does State law require noxious Weed control?

YES. The law states that landowners are required to follow state and county weed control requirements. These laws are listed in chapter 17.10 of the RCW and Chapter 16-750 of the WAC.

To find out more about noxious weeds and their control in Washington, contact:

Washington State
Noxious Weed Control Board
P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 902-1901

Web site: http://www.nwcb.wa.gov

Or

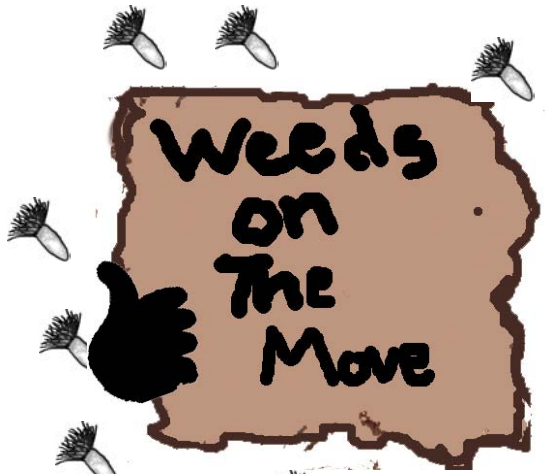
Washington State Department of Agriculture
21 North First Avenue #103
Yakima, WA 98902
(509) 225-2604

Or

Your local County Noxious Weed Control Board:

Help Protect Washington's Environment, Manage Noxious Weeds on Your Land!

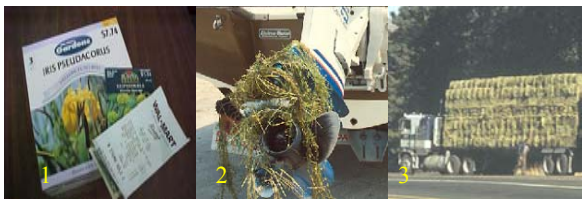
Noxious Weeds



Movement of noxious weeds: Invasive plants, including noxious weeds, spread at a rate of 4600 acres a day on public lands in the United States.

Spread the word, not the weed: Your actions are a critical part of controlling noxious weeds. Many large and difficult weed infestations might have been prevented if someone had destroyed that first plant. **You can make a difference!** :

- Learn to recognize noxious weeds. If you find an infested area or unfamiliar plant, contact your local noxious weed control board. Steps can be taken to control the weeds before they spread.
- Carefully select garden plants to avoid planting any noxious weeds. **Do not** share aggressive plants with your neighbors (Image1)
- Check your vehicles and clear any weed debris or fragments. When traveling off the main roads you may pick up unwanted weeds. (Image 6)
- Check and clean your boats and trailers for any plant fragments. (Image 2)
- Do not empty your aquariums into waterbodies.



- Remove and properly dispose of any plant parts that might be stuck to boots, clothing, camping equipment, and animals. (Image 4)
- Check hay for possible weed contaminants and cover all loads for transport. (Image 3)

Who is responsible for controlling noxious weeds?

We all are! Landowners, including state, county, and city land managers, are responsible for controlling weeds on their property. As citizens we are all responsible for being good stewards of our lands. Removing invasive species is one way we can take an active role in preserving our rich biodiversity.

Invasive species do not recognize property boundaries. Successfully battling invasions requires partnerships between public and private landowners, government, industry, academia, and non-governmental organizations.

THE BEST CONTROL IS PREVENTION !!

Control methods should use Integrated Pest Management (IPM). A site specific plan should be created for each infestation. Each plant should include a combination of:

Chemical Control(Using herbicides to remove undesired plants) Is an effective tool and should be used in combination with restoration and monitoring.

Always Read and follow the Label when using herbicides.

Mechanical control (Physically removing, pulling mowing etc.) Is often successful, but can be expensive, labor intensive, and inappropriate for some weeds.

Biological control(Using other organisms such as insects to reduce infestations**)** when available, can be an environmentally sound way to control large infestations. some control agents do not survive or are ineffective and others attack non-target organisms and may become invasive themselves.

Ecological control (manipulating environmental factors such as fire and water flow) can provide native species an edge in competing with invasive species.

Restoration: This is a key component to control. It minimizes the chances of an area to be reinvaded by providing vegetative competition.